

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 MMO-04 INR-07 CIAE-00  
/032 W

-----076545 210210Z /64

R 200820Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4536

UNCLAS PRAGUE 0161

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ECON, CZ  
SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF WORLD MARKETS FOR WOOD AND U.S.  
COMPETITIVE POSITION

REF: STATE A-4460

1. LATEST EDITION OF STATISTICAL YEARBOOK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
PROVIDES ONLY FOLLOWING SKETCHY INFORMATION ON WOOD  
PRODUCTION:

(A) 1976 WOOD EXTRACTION: 17,578,000 CUBIC METERS  
(WITHOUT RIND) OF WHICH: CONIFEROUS, 13,569,000 CUBIC  
METERS; DECIDUOUS, 4,009,000.

(B) 1976 IMPORTS OF FINISHED LUMBER: 150,000 SQUARE  
METERS (ALL FROM USSR).

(C) 1976 EXPORTS OF FINISHED LUMBER: 746,000 TONS  
(TO UK, HOLLAND, WEST GERMANY, ITALY, AND AUSTRIA).

2. OFFICIAL OF LIGNA (FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION  
RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT OF WOOD PRODUCTS) SAID  
THAT COMPLETE INFORMATION ON CZECHOSLOVAK INDUSTRY IS  
GIVEN TO ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE TIMBER COMMITTEE  
AND CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ECE TIMBER COMMITTEE IN  
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GENEVA. HE ADDED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA ANTICIPATES  
NO DRAMATIC INCREASE IN ITS PRODUCTION OVER NEXT  
FEW YEARS AND IS PLANNING ANNUAL PRODUCTION GROWTH  
RATES OF 4-5 PERCENT.

3. HE NOTED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA EXPORTS APPROXIMATELY 800,000 CUBIC METERS OF TIMBER (DEFINED BY OFFICIAL

AS BOARDS AND SAWN LUMBER) ANNUALLY, 95 PERCENT OF WHICH GOES TO WESTERN EUROPE (THE REMAINDER TO THE MIDDLE EAST). THESE ARE PRODUCED PRIMARILY FROM SPRUCE AND FIR, WITH A SMALL AMOUNT TAKEN FROM PINE. LIGNA'S SISTER FTO IN SLOVAKIA, DREVOUNIA, EXPORTS SAWN HARDWOOD AS WELL, MAINLY FROM OAK AND BEECH. CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS VIRTUALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN WOOD PRODUCTS, WITH IMPORTS MINOR AND CONFINED TO SPECIALTY ITEMS.

BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MARKETS, WOOD, WOODS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014